

Note:

*Esther Mariah Davies Murdock's father
was not included in the DAP History - I thought
he lived and died in Charleston - Here is a short history*

History written about 1950 by Mattie T. F. Murdock - Franklin Judson Davies and Ann Richmond
Franklin J. was born 2 August 1806 at Oswegotya, St. Lawrence, New York, son of Powell Davies and Esther Davies.

Ann was born 16 February, abt 1815 in Portland, Leeds, Ontario, Upper Canada, the daughter of David Richmond and Mercy Ray.

Franklin was a wheelwright and also a school teacher. He also worked for a lumber company which travelled up and down the St. Lawrence River. She was a marvelous housewife and spent days of baking in a great stone oven and piled bread in high stacks on cupboard shelves. Her health was not so good. They owned large maple flats and had lots of maple sugar and syrup. They drew the sap out of the trees to make the syrup. Once he scalded his leg with the hot syrup and as he pulled off his sock the skin came off. He wrapped his leg in a little wool shawl that his daughter Esther usually wore.

They moved to Nauvoo where he was a wheelwright at night and taught school during the day. Her folks wanted her to come back saying she would not be able to stand the trip and that they didn't want a Mormon in the family. While at Nauvoo the prophet called a meeting to pray for rain. Franklin took his seven year old daughter Esther with him. The rain came and some ran for shelter and when he asked her to seek shelter, as he had asthma, she said, "I'd rather get wet now we pray for rain."

When they started for the Valley they came with the John Tidwell Company in the year 1851. (Crown Point Immigration record was for 1852 and lists Ann's death on the plains) They (The John A Tidwell Company) left Council Bluffs May 10th and arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah on September 23, 1851. They had stayed at Nauvoo (Winter Quarters for four years) to help fix wagons and carts for the Saints. While camped at the Platt River, it was a Saturday night and several had cholera. His daughter Esther was washing out a few things at the river when they called for her to come quickly. Her mother was in a delicate condition and took cholera and went quick.

They cut a tree bark in two for a casket and put Ann Richmond, the mother, in a nice linen sheet and blanket and laid her away by the road side with others. He was stricken suddenly too and had to be raised to sitting position to watch them bury his wife. The sorrow, sickness and all almost made him lose his reasoning. Pres. Wilford Woodruff, Scotch John Murdock and wife and others befriended the motherless family and the weak father. Their children were Stanley Powell Davies, Esther Mariah Davies and Emily Ann Davies.

About four years later he was feeling better and married a widow who had two daughters. (She was Pres. A.O. Smoot's sister.) She was unkind to the children and he could not stand it so he gave her a settlement. She went her way and he went his. In 1857 he served in the army that went to Echo Canyon to retard the progress of Johnson's Army coming into Utah.

During the scarcity of food in Salt Lake City he told his daughter, Esther to divide food with others and she said many times she gave when one middling of flour for bread was all they had, but there was always plenty. Brigham Young had promised her father that he nor his children nor his children's children should ever want for flour or bread because of his staying and helping fix up the wagon wheels for the Saints to cross the plains. He was not stingy and was always willing to help the poor.

(They lived in Charleston, Wasatch Co. Utah) He died August 16, 1888 at Charleston and was buried in the Charleston Cemetery.

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